

# Calendar No. 999

68TH CONGRESS }  
2d Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT  
{ No. 934

TO AUTHORIZE THE ACCOUNTING OFFICERS OF THE TREASURY  
TO PAY TO CERTAIN SUPPLY OFFICERS THE PAY AND ALLOW-  
ANCES FOR SERVICES PERFORMED

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JANUARY 26 (calendar day, JANUARY 29), 1925.—Ordered to be printed

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Mr. NORBECK, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, submitted  
the following

## REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 8263]

The Committee on Naval Affairs, to which was referred the bill (H. R. 8263) to authorize the accounting officers of the Treasury to pay to certain supply officers of the regular Navy and Naval Reserve Force the pay and allowances of their ranks for services performed prior to the approval of their bonds, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with the recommendation that the bill do pass with amendments.

In the title of the bill strike out the words "accounting officers of the Treasury," and insert in their stead the words "General Accounting Office."

In line 3, strike out the words "accounting officers of the Treasury are" and insert in their stead the words "General Accounting Office is."

The purpose of this proposed legislation is to authorize all supply officers of the regular Navy and Naval Reserve Force to receive the pay and allowances of their respective ranks for services performed by them between April 6, 1917, and March 3, 1921, inclusive, prior to the approval of their official bonds by the Secretary of the Navy.

The Navy Department is unable to submit an estimate as to the probable cost of this proposed legislation, as there is no way of determining the number of officers who would be affected thereby or the period of time elapsing between the dates of commission thereof and the approval of their respective bonds. However, owing to war conditions, there were numerous cases in which the approval of the bonds required of certain supply officers were delayed for a period of several weeks, during which time the officers in question performed full service for which they would appear to be entitled to compensation.

Attention is invited in this connection to section 1560, United States Revised Statutes, which provides that the pay of an officer

of the Navy required to give official bond shall commence upon the date of approval of his bond:

Sec. 1560. The pay of an officer of the Navy, upon his original entry into the service, except where he is required to give an official bond, shall commence upon the date of his acceptance of his appointment; but where he is required to give such bond his pay shall commence upon the date of the approval of his bond by the proper authority.

The committee believes that there is merit in the legislation proposed in the bill H. R. 8263, the total cost of which should not exceed \$40,000.

The general legislation proposed in the bill (H. R. 8263) was suggested by the Navy Department in response to a private bill for the relief of Edwin Lee White, which was referred to the department for its views and recommendations. The bill and reply of the department are as follows:

[H. R. 4003, Sixty-eighth Congress, first session]

A BILL Authorizing the accounting officers of the Treasury to pay to Edwin Lee White the pay and allowances of his rank for services performed prior to the approval of his bond by the Secretary of the Navy

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the accounting officers of the Treasury are hereby authorized and directed to pay to Edwin Lee White, late lieutenant (junior grade), Supply Corps, United States Naval Reserve Force, the pay and allowances of his rank for the period he performed active duty on the United States ship Delaware prior to the approval of his bond by the Secretary of the Navy.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,  
Washington, February 9, 1924.

The CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE ON NAVAL AFFAIRS,  
House of Representatives.

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Replying further to the committee's letter of December 20, 1923, inclosing a bill (H. R. 4003) authorizing the accounting officers of the Treasury to pay to Edwin Lee White the pay and allowances of his rank for services performed prior to the approval of his bond by the Secretary of the Navy, and requesting the views and recommendations of the department thereon, I have the honor to inform you as follows:

The records of the department show that Edwin Lee White was enrolled in the United States Naval Reserve Force as an assistant paymaster with the rank of ensign on August 4, 1917, and that, in obedience to orders, he reported for duty on board the *Delaware* on August 15, 1917. However, his bond as an assistant paymaster was not approved by the department until September 30, 1917, and he was not entitled to the pay of his grade until the approval of such bond.

The proposed bill is intended to allow Mr. White the pay and allowance of his rank during the period from the date of his reporting for duty to the date of approval of his bond. The department favors his receiving such pay and allowances, but by virtue of the provisions of section 1560 of the Revised Statutes, which provides "\* \* \* where he is required to give such bond his pay shall commence upon the date of the approval of his bond by the proper authority." It will be noted that this situation applies to all officers in the Navy who are required to give official bond.

As the proposed bill is for the benefit of an individual the merits of whose case are no different from that of many other officers of the naval service who performed duty during the war prior to the approval of their bonds, the department is opposed to the enactment of such legislation unless it is so amended as to cover all other cases of the same nature. The department, therefore, recommends that the bill H. R. 4003 be so changed as to make the legislation general and applicable to all similar cases of officers of the regular Navy and of the Naval Reserve Force, who performed duty during the war prior to the approval of their bonds, i. e., during the period from April 6, 1917, to March 3, 1921, inclusive, and if this be done, recommends approval of such legislation.

Sincerely yours,

EDWIN DENBY,  
Secretary of the Navy.